

ELECTRONIC MONITORING ALTERNATIVES

At its April, 2013 meeting, the Council decided the primary focus of integrating electronic monitoring (EM) into the trawl catch share program would be to achieve the compliance monitoring required for individual accountability of catch and bycatch. At its June, 2013 meeting, the Council established a Groundfish Electronic Monitoring (GEM) Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) to focus on the development of options for EM use in the trawl catch share program and a Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee (GEMTAC) to advise the GEMPC. At the September 2013 meeting, the Council provided guidance to the GEMPAC and GEMTAC to discuss, at the October GEM Committees meeting, a “phased in approach” for implementation of EM, starting with midwater trawl and fixed gear fisheries, then a separate phase for bottom trawl fisheries. The Council also asked the GEMPAC and GEMTAC to discuss the use of data logger systems as a component of the EM program, discuss alternatives for an EM program that includes species that may be discarded under maximum retention fisheries, and to explore ways to minimize discards made for safety reasons. The Council also requested that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center provide a report at the November, 2013 Council meeting on how the West Coast Observer Program would be adjusted to move forward with an EM program in place for midwater trawl, fixed gear, and potentially bottom trawl fisheries. The report is expected from NMFS but was not available at the time of the advance briefing book deadline.

On October 15-16, 2013, both committees met to consider the Council’s requests and develop draft alternatives for an EM program. Prior to the meeting, Council staff provided a draft set of alternatives to the committees (Agenda Item H.8, Draft Alternatives for GEMPAC). The October GEMPC Report will be provided, including recommendations for consideration by the Council (Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental GEMPC Report).

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to consider an update of NMFS/PSMFC 2013 field season. Detailed information of the 2013 field season will be presented at the June 2014 Council meeting. At this meeting, PSMFC will provide detailed information of the 2012 field season and provide the Council with some issues of concern regarding an EM program.

Under this agenda item, the Council is also scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for EM regulations and provide guidance on further analysis. Dependant on Council direction, the GEMPAC or GEMTAC may meet this winter.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a range of alternatives for EM regulations.**
- 2. Provide guidance on further analysis.**
- 3. Provide guidance on issues indentified in the GEMPC Report to the Council, as necessary.**
- 4. Provide other guidance as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.8.a, Attachment 1: Draft Alternatives for Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) Consideration.
2. Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental GEMPC Report: GEM Committees Report to Council.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Brett Wiedoff
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Electronic Monitoring Regulations in the Rationalized Groundfish Trawl Fishery, and Provide Guidance on Further Analysis

PFMC
10/15/13